

William H. Baumer
Major General, AUS Ret.
P.O. Box 1045
La Jolla, California 92038

Rec'd 3 May
Executive Registry
82-3251

27 May 1982

DD/A Registry
82-1402

The Honorable William J. Casey
The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

When I was present at your seminar in Washington, I had occasion to speak to General Williams of DIA about computerized language translation and he mentioned the lack of translators. In view of that lack and because computerized language translation has improved immeasurably in the last ten years, I wanted to bring to your attention Dr. Peter Toma and Latsec, Inc. of La Jolla, California.

In 1975 and 1976 Dr. Toma and I met quite a few times with CIA's FBIS and at times we thought we were moving forward but we were never successful in getting SYSTRAN, Latsec's language translation system, in the CIA. At that time we also met with DIA and with the other service intelligence chiefs and we recall that your Deputy, Admiral Inman, was then Director of Intelligence in the U.S. Navy. Unfortunately, the talks did not result in any CIA use of Latsec's translation services.

Consequently, Dr. Toma put his major efforts into installing his system in Luxembourg for the European Economic Community where it translates from French into English, and from English to French, German, and Italian. Development efforts are currently underway for French to German translation.

SYSTRAN also translates from English into five languages for Xerox and I know that their representatives are very pleased with the results. Also, negotiations with certain commercial and other interests for translation of Japanese to English and English to Japanese are currently in progress. In addition, both the Air Force and Naval Intelligence have shown interest in the computerized translation of Chinese to English.

I should mention that Latsec has been involved with computerized language translation with the Foreign Technology Division, Systems Command, of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson, since 1969. The Russian-English system used there has been under constant development and improvement for years and now translates more than fifteen million words per year. During this time, the Foreign Technology Division has become the foremost expert in maximizing

CL 2 2802

William H. Baumer
Major General, AUS Ret.
P.O. Box 1045
La Jolla, California 92038

- 2 -

the effective use of machine translation. The Foreign Technology Division has done away with post-editing of translations since they find the efforts to be 80 to 95% accurate. The current contract calls for the installation of the SYSTRAN German-English and French-English systems at the Foreign Technology Division.

Another development now being implemented is the use of Optical Character Readers which make computerized translation even more cost-effective by eliminating manual input.

Also worthy of mention is the fact that in 1974 when the Soviet Union and the United States were putting the Apollo-Soyuz space flights into action, NASA utilized Latsec's translation systems for Russian to English and English to Russian. This translation was largely engineering and technical in nature.

The important note in all machine translation of language is that its reliability, speed, and cost-effectiveness make it the only practical solution to high-volume translation requirements.

The technical people at Latsec and I will be available for further discussions if you wish.

You are doing a magnificent job as The Director of Central Intelligence, and I hope for the country's sake you will be there for many years.

Sincerely,



William H. Baumer

WHB/tlc

STAT